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K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know how many of them are officials and how many are non-officials; and if non-officials were appointed, what are their qualifications?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" From the information available I cannot answer that question. I will call for the information."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether all the nineteen were directly recruited, or some of them were promoted from the services?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I cannot answer that question off hand. I will call for the information."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Is it not possible to redress the injustice done to Royalaseema districts now by making additional appointments?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" In this connexion I may submit, Sir, that these appointments are temporary and have been made to facilitate work. Distribution of yarn in the presidency had to be taken up immediately the scheme was framed by Government. So to implement the policy of Government these appointments had necessarily to be made without going into the question of communal representation and all that sort of thing. But I can assure hon. Members that Government will certainly try to see all areas, communities and interests are properly represented."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether applications were invited, or applicants were invited?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I cannot answer that question." (Laughter.)

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that offers were made by the Government for the persons appointed?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the Hon. Minister has said that he cannot answer that question."

The Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Society.

* 139 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Society passed some amendments to the by-laws relating to the composition of the Board and the Executive Committee;

(*b*) whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the competent authority to register the amendments, was directed by the Government not to register them and, if so, what were the reasons for the interference of the Government;

(*c*) whether under the Madras Co-operative Societies Act, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is the ultimate authority to register amendments and appeal lies to Government only in cases of refusal;

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(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies was directed to ask the society to call for another meeting of the general body of the society to reconsider the amendments;

(*e*) what the provision of law is under which this direction was given;

(*f*) whether even the second general body meeting reiterated their resolutions regarding the amendments;

(*g*) whether a deputation of the Provincial Society waited on the Hon. Minister more than once and that he assured them that even if the amendments were carried by a bare majority, they would be registered;

(*h*) whether the amendments have since been registered; and

(*i*) the authority, statutory or otherwise under which the Government acted?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) On a representation received from some members of the Provincial Handloom Weavers' Society the Government found that the division of opinion among the members of the general body for and against the amendment was somewhat even and informed the Registrar that in a matter of this kind the *status quo* should not be changed without a fairly general consensus of opinion among the members of the general body favouring the change.

" (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*d*) As the opinion of the general body at the first meeting was more or less equally divided and as the Government considered that on a fundamental matter affecting the constitution of the society it was desirable that the amendments should command a wider measure of assent, the Registrar, was informed that the Government would reconsider the position if the amendment was passed again at a general body meeting of the society.

" (*e*) & (*i*) Under section 57 of the Madras Co-operative Societies Act, the Provincial Government can call for and examine the record of any enquiry or the proceedings of any officer subordinate to them and pass such orders as they deem fit. The amendments in question were pending registration with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Representations were received by Government against the registration of the amendments. As the Government are giving financial aid to the Provincial Handloom Weavers Society and are consequently interested in the harmonious working of the society they issued instructions in the matter under the powers vested in them by Section 57 of the Co-operative Societies Act.

" (*f*) The answer is in the affirmative.

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" (*g*) A deputation of the Provincial Society was informed on 1st August 1946 that the Government would reconsider the position if the amendments were reiterated at a second meeting of the general body meeting of the society.

" (*h*) The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has since been directed to register the amendments."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister quoted section 57. Such interference under that section on the part of Government arises only if there is irregularity in the proceedings of such officers. Under Section 12 of the Act, Sir, the competent authority to register the amendment is the Registrar. And then, Sir, under Section 24 of the Act . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is it a commentary that you are giving? (Laughter.) Or do you want any information?"

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister is not giving the correct legal position as regards amendment. We have made representations to the Government regarding this. That is why I put the question. What I want to point out is to see that even under section 57 Government was not competent to interfere with the registration of amendments to by-laws."

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" There were certain other irregularities also. That is why Government were forced to interfere."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Was the society informed of the existence of these irregularities?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Notice."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Was it done on the initiative of Government or on the initiative of somebody else?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" On the representation of the directors and others."

Assistant Superintendent of Stationery.

* 140 MR. K. O. ANTHONI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the post of Assistant Superintendent of Stationery was reserved for war-returned candidates and what the qualifications prescribed were;

(*b*) whether any suitable candidate had applied and had been selected by the Public Service Commission;

(*c*) if not, who has been appointed after the retirement of the permanent incumbent and what his qualifications are;

(*d*) whether the appointment has been made on a temporary or permanent basis; and

(*e*) if temporary, whether the Government propose to advertise the post and call for applications from candidates possessing the necessary qualifications?